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**Newsletter**

**Number 02**

**13 February 2015**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – [admin@matarau.school.nz](mailto:admin@matarau.school.nz)

**Thanks**

... to camp parents whose commitment and teamwork helped to make this week's senior camp to Auckland such a fantastically memorable experience. Check out the senior school camp photo's and activities on [seniorschoolcamp2015.blogspot.com](http://seniorschoolcamp2015.blogspot.com)

... to those parents who have expressed interest in the (hopefully) forthcoming Incredible Years Programme (more needed to make this a goer).

... Lisa Jones for your fantastic leadership in the build up to the school gala and to others who have put their hands up to help out.

**People of the week**

... year 7 and 8's for your contributions to this week's camp.

... our year 7 and 8 teachers ... Scotty, Katie and Sue ... you're the best!

**School Gala Day 14 March**

Gala days are a great way to raise much needed funds and to foster community connections. On 14 March (9:00-1:00) we will host Matarau School's first fundraising gala. As with all such events the support of our community is crucial. In forthcoming newsletters we will be advising you on how you can support with spreading the word, donation of items, helping out on the day etc.

So ... please pencil in 14 March and plan to be there. Let extended family know and help us to make this an absolutely fun filled day.

(Please see the flyer with this newsletter for more information)

**Incredible Years Programme .. for parents of children ages 3-8**

Last week you will have received an invitation to participate in the Incredible Years Programme. This is a highly acclaimed programme and we may not get the opportunity to host this again. People who have done this programme before say it was fantastic, and that it gave them a whole new perspective on their children, and on how to manage challenging behaviours. Involves 2 mornings a week (10:00 to 12:30) for 14 weeks. If you would like the flyer please email Kevin [principal@matarau.school.nz](mailto:principal@matarau.school.nz). If you have lost your expression of interest form just email your interest to Kevin or phone the school office.

**Term calendar**

*More to follow as dates come to hand!*

9-13 Feb	Year 7 and 8 camp to Auckland
16 Feb	Whanau meeting
23 Feb	Swimming trials
23/24 Feb	Parent / teacher / student conferences
26 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School
10 March	Interschool Swimming Sports
12 March	School Swimming Sports (years 4 to 8)
17 March	Year 4-6 Summer Sports Tournament
24 March	Year 7-8 Summer Sports Tournament
2 April	Final day of term

### In brief ... from last week

- ... please advise the office by 2:45 if your child will not be on their customary bus
- ... please drop off and pick up children from the upper car park or lower bus bay if possible
- ... a reminder 20kph passing parked buses and 40kph passing the school
- ... no children at school please before 8:00 AM
- ... please advise the school office next week any changes in contact, medical or address details
- ... please ensure you connect with the office over the next week to ensure that any medications we hold are current
- ... swimming togs each day please
- ... on site guitar lessons ... please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email [killalea@ihug.co.nz](mailto:killalea@ihug.co.nz)
- ... if able to help for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour with Monday or Friday lunches, or able to pick up pies from Kamo on Friday mornings on way to school please phone Helen in the office.
- ... please arrange for purchase of stationery items asap ... all items can be purchased from the office.

### National Standards Results

Our National Standards results are available for anyone interested in viewing these. If you would like a copy please drop by to see Kevin.

### Swimming Trials

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on **23 February** please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.



*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### Zone Swimming Sports - Kokopu School - 26 February

Consents for this event (years 4 to 8) were sent home this week. If you did not receive a consent, and you would like your child to participate in this event, please contact the office early next week.

Parents are asked to ensure that children attending this event (selected from previous performance - and your input) bring their lunches, plenty to drink, sunhats (and sun safe clothing), sunblock, something warm to wear between races, and spending money at your discretion. Please ensure that children who travel by bus also return to school by bus - unless otherwise arranged with the attending teachers. If weather is doubtful on the morning please check our phone bulletin board for updates. (Children who qualify at the zone event will be invited to participate in the Interschool Swimming Championships - more to follow)

Junior Swimming Sports ... dates and times to follow shortly.

### Pool Keys

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$30 per family for the 2015 swimming season. Please advise the school office of any users accessing the pool without a key.

### Swimming pool ... can you help

If you think you might be able to help with pool water testing on a Sunday please give Kevin a call or flick us an email. Full training provided, and doesn't take long.

### School gates

The school gates help us to keep children safe. If you are entering, or exiting, the school grounds during school hours it is important to ensure you close these gates after you. If you are dropping a child at school after first or before final bell, please be aware that they may not be tall enough to open these gates on their own.

### Cellphones

We realise that some parents like their children to have a cell phone on them in the event of an emergency. If your child does bring a cell phone to school please note that these must be dropped to the school office on arrival at school and picked up on departure each day. If you want to get a message to your child during the school day this should be channelled through the school office.



### Homework ... we are now going to call this "Home Learning" (Miss Griffins idea)

Home Learning is **encouraged but optional** at Matarau School. For most children this will mean 4 nights home learning a week (around 20 minutes each night) with most of this time spent on word learning, maths basic facts and reading, with one activity related to their class programme. Parents should feel free to advise their child's teacher if the load needs to be lightened for any reason or if they wish their child excused from home learning altogether. This saves tension and time wasted chasing home learning. **If you do NOT want your child to receive home learning please advise their teacher NEXT week.** If you are on board please set a regular time and place and advise us if we can help with any "speed wobbles" along the way. Let's start as we mean to continue by getting routines well established.

*(Although the research is a little inconclusive we believe that regular home learning routines lead to better performance and a better preparation for secondary school for most children).*

### Whanau Meeting

Monday 16 February starting 4:30pm by the pool. Sausage sizzle and swim. Open to anyone interested in things Maori ... te reo, kapa haka etc.. See you there.

### School Sponsors sought for 2015

Interested parties are invited to express an interest in becoming a school sponsor. Our sponsors provide an important link between the school and its community. While grateful for the financial contributions of sponsors our desire to foster an on-going and mutually beneficial relationship between the school and your business is our paramount consideration.

Where relevant, a sponsor will be given the opportunity to quote on school work through the Ministry of Education. This is just one of the benefits of being a sponsor.

If you are interested in becoming a school sponsor, please contact Mary Finlayson 4370441 or 0274525398.



### Inhalers

Please note that inhalers (and in fact all medications) must be kept in the school office and not in children's bags. This way we can monitor and record usage and advise you of any concerns. So ... if your child needs an inhaler (or medication), please drop this medication (named clearly) in to the school office next week.

### Sunhats

A number of children are still coming to school without their sunhats. A reminder that school bucket hats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sunblock at your discretion.

Term Headlice Inspection The term headlice inspection will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 23 and 24 February - online booking details were sent to families last week. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

Early Buses - early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 23 & 24 February due to parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30pm please on these days.

### School Contributions /Trips and Events Fee

Thank you to those who have paid contributions and fees for 2015. While the contributions are voluntary, they do play a very important part in closing our funding gap. Out of fairness to others the board encourages all families to pay their contribution please. **If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact Kevin to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.**

Scholastic Book Order - Issue 1 orders are due in no later than Friday 20th February.

Hopscotch For Kids - after school care - If interested please phone Wendy on 021733186 or Abbey on 0212372598 or email [hello@hopscotchforkids.co.nz](mailto:hello@hopscotchforkids.co.nz).

### Learning Support Programme

Parents of children in Mrs Comrie's or Mrs Walker's programmes are asked to show a high level of interest in these programmes ... check in with your child regularly, ask them what they are learning and how they are applying this, ensure that assigned tasks are done, and feel free to connect with Mrs Comrie or Mrs Walker at any time with questions, or if you would like to observe lessons.

### Parent Helpers

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please make contact with your child's teacher or drop by to the office. Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your involvement.

### Creating optimal conditions for learning (a final reminder)

Children benefit from .. **drinking plenty of water** (water bottles each day please) ... **a good night's sleep**.  
.. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch** ... **and parents who get involved**. You have all made a fantastic start!

### Consultation on the Health Curriculum

Schools are required to consult with their community on the delivery of the Health Curriculum. In forthcoming newsletter we will share key elements of our approach with you. So watch this space.

### Finally

As the year unfolds we will share quite a bit with you about our 2015 initiatives. Among these will be a school wide focus on writing (including spelling, punctuation and grammar) and on personalised learning. The latter explores how we can grow motivation by making children the managers of their own learning. More to follow .. just wanted you to start getting excited!

Regards  
Kevin Trehwella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them



### Lost Togs

Black and silver shorts, orange beach towel, rash shirt - black and silver. Left in the swimming pool changing room Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. If your child has taken it home by mistake could you please return to Room 10 or the office.

### School Lunches



**Mondays** - \$3.00 : Baked Beans or Spaghetti served with toast & a juice, or Chicken or Beef Cup of Noodles & a juice. Order at the office by morning tea on Monday.

**Wednesdays** - \$1.50 : for Sausage (meat or vegetarian option) in bread with sauce. Order on Wednesday mornings through the classroom teacher.

**Fridays** - \$4.00 : Hot Mince Pie, Jumbo Sausage Roll or Sausage Roll (with Museli Bar) and a Fruit Drink. You can swap the Fruit drink for a Flavoured Milk for \$5.00. Order by Wednesday at the office, to receive Friday.

### Community Notices

**FREE TO GOOD HOME** - 2 hens & 1 rooster. Collect from Matarau Rd. Ali 4335000 0273190273.

**WANTED** - Medical touch typists wanting to work from home while the kids are at school. For further info email [donna@digitype.co.nz](mailto:donna@digitype.co.nz).

**HIKURANGI RUGBY RALLY DAY** - If you would like to play rugby this season come down to our clubrooms on Saturday 21 February, 10am-12 to register. Contact Kasey on 021542426 if you have any queries.

**MID NORTHERN HOCKEY** - is looking for any Year 7 & 8's that want to play hockey this season. Please phone Kim on 0275339973 or 4339973.

**DRAMA AND VOICE ACADEMY CLASSES** - In Whangarei Mondays, Tuesdays and Bream Bay on Wednesdays from ages 5 - teens. Theatre games, Characterisation, Storytelling, Devising etc. Speech NZ Exams and Festival Performance offered. For more info or to enroll go to [www.makingascene.co.nz](http://www.makingascene.co.nz)